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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: CORRECTED MEDIA REACTION: U.S. ARMS SALES TO
TAIWAN, WAR ON TERRORISM

11. Summary: The coverage of major Chinese-language Taipei dailies focused September 10-12 on local politics; a Taipei District Court ruling in which Kuro, Taiwan's most popular peer-to-peer software company, was found guilty of intellectual property rights (IPR) infringement; a local feud over sperm-harvesting; and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's landslide victory in its general election. The pro-independence "Liberty Times," Taiwan's biggest daily, was the only newspaper to run a banner headline on its page two that read: "[Taiwan's] Minister of Foreign Affairs was searched by U.S. security personnel [at the airport last May] while transiting the United States." The newspaper spent almost the whole of its page two discussing the issue and citing a similar experience by First Lady Wu Su-chen three years ago.

With regard to the U.S. arms procurement bill, both the pro-unification "United Daily News" and the centrist "China Times" reported in their inside pages September 10 that PFP Chairman James Soong asserted that there may be NT\$200 billion-worth of kickbacks in the U.S. arms procurement bill.

12. Only one Chinese-language newspaper editorialized on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan September 10-12. An editorial in the pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" called on Taiwan's Defense Ministry to use concrete evidence to fight James Soong's false accusations. An editorial in the limited-circulation, conservative, pro-unification (English-language) "China Post" criticized the U.S.-led war on terrorism, saying the global anti-terrorist campaign has fallen far short of the noble objectives the United States has tried to achieve. End summary.

11. U.S. Arms Sales to Taiwan

"[Taiwan's] Defense Ministry Should Stand up and Fight James Soong's False Accusation about [the Government Taking] Kickbacks in Arms Deals"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 100,000] editorialized (9/11):

". As a matter of fact, the three arms procurements with the United States are different from ordinary arms deals. They are arms deals between Taiwan and the U.S. governments, whereas the ordinary arms deal is made between arms dealers and may easily involve problems like commissions or kickbacks. With arms procurements between two governments, there are no problems with kickbacks. [PFP Chairman] James Soong is clearly aware of this, but still, he used 'kickbacks' remarks to undermine the government's prestige and falsely accused, without providing any evidence, [the government of taking] kickbacks and [claimed that] the price tags for the arms procurements are too high. The Defense Ministry should not overlook these unreasonable and serious accusations and should publicly clarify the situation by offering concrete evidence in order to fight Soong's accusations and let the Taiwan public understand the truth. ."

12. War on Terrorism

"Taking Stock of U.S.-led War against Terrorism"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" [circulation: 30,000] commented in an editorial (9/12):

". The global anti-terrorist campaign has fallen far short of the noble objective the United States has tried to achieve. No actual combat has taken place, but American troops have to be deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq to keep peace and prop the two unworkable 'democratic' governments in Kabul and Baghdad. Suicide

bombings continue to bleed the Anglo-American peacekeeping forces, and the Western world, the United Kingdom in particular, lives under threat of terrorism, the removal of which is the aim of the two invasions.

"What went wrong? American war strategies have never tried to learn historical lessons. President Lyndon B. Johnson blundered into the Vietnam War in 1964, and it took ten years for Washington to finally extricate itself from the Southeast Asian quagmire, after tens of thousands of troops had been killed and wounded. The Soviet Union had its Vietnam War in Afghanistan, which started in 1978 and, in the end, wound up with the Taliban in power. Former President George H. W. Bush, was successful in driving the invading army of Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait but his Operation Desert Storm ended without American troops marching on Baghdad in 1989.

"President George W. Bush failed to learn from his father. When the Gulf War started, the United States had all the justifications to attack and topple Saddam Hussein. The Arab world, with the exception of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, supported the American war that aimed at liberating oil-rich Kuwait from its jingoistic neighbor. The Iraqi army was routed, and the American soldiers could have taken Baghdad and the Iraqi despot without any difficulty. The older Bush stopped the war, knowing full well the toppling of Saddam Hussein would saddle the United States with many more difficulties than keeping the Iraqi tyrant in Baghdad. The conflict in Iraq now looks every bit like the Vietnam War minus actual combat. The only comfort is that, unlike in Vietnam, there is no North Iraq which might try to gobble up a South Iraq.

"If the Americans leave Iraq now or in a couple of years, maybe by 2009, the country will remain just as strife-torn as it is now without Saddam Hussein policing his domain with a brutal hand. But it will still be one country."

KEEGAN